

# U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION



APRIL 17-23, 2006

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## **“OPERATION FALCON II” APPREHENDS THOUSANDS OF FUGITIVES IN ONE WEEK ACROSS THE NATION**

### **U.S. MARSHALS TASK FORCE-CHICAGO TOGETHER WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT NABS HUNDREDS**

**Chicago, IL**—Fugitive Clifford Cash was apprehended by officers assigned to the U.S. Marshals Task Force in Chicago, IL on a warrant for a parole violation by his failure to register as a sex offender. Cash was convicted of aggravated criminal sexual assault of a minor and when apprehended was in the company of two small children. Cash was one of thousands of fugitives who were destined for jail last week during one of the largest fugitive apprehension operations in U.S. history. Operation FALCON II (“Federal and Local Cops Organized Nationally”) built upon the successes of 2005 when the U.S. Marshals Service organized Operation FALCON I, an unprecedented cooperative effort among federal, state, and local law enforcement. Operation Falcon II focused on fugitives wanted for committing sexual offenses and crimes of violence against women, children, and the elderly as well as unregistered sex offenders.

“The United States Marshals Service intends to instill a fear into these predators that they have now become the prey and will be sought by the best fugitive hunters in the business,” said U.S. Marshal Kim Widup of the Northern District of Illinois. “Our officers will continue to aggressively pursue these fugitives until they are in custody or direct them into a course where surrender is their only option.”

The Northern District of Illinois had significant success locally during FALCON II to include arresting more individuals affiliated with a known gang (70) than any other District or Task Force participating in the operation. In addition, 97% of all fugitives arrested in the Northern District of Illinois had a prior arrest history. Nationally, 111 guns were seized, and drugs were confiscated during 139 arrests for a total of 91 kilograms of narcotics seized. In addition, over \$120,000 in cash was seized during the arrest of wanted subjects. Across the country, task force members also arrested 163 gang members, 87 homicide suspects, and cleared 2,941 drug cases.

“Operation FALCON II sends a strong message to the public and wanted felons at large that the U.S. Marshals and our state, local and federal task force partners are diligently, jointly, and effectively working the streets to bring these predators to justice,” said Commander Geoff Shank, U.S. Marshals Service Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force. “These operations show the public that the most effective way to combat crime in our communities is by a collaborative investigative partnership concentrating on the “worst of the worst” fugitives from justice which is one of the hallmarks of the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force’s success.”

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This seven day national roundup led by the U.S. Marshals Service and locally by the U.S. Marshals Service Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF) along with hundreds of partners from state, local and federal agencies led to the arrests of 9,037 individuals. Among those arrested during Operation FALCON II were 1,102 violent sexual offenders, the largest number ever captured by a single law enforcement effort. Operation FALCON II was conducted from April 17 through April 23, 2006.

The GLRFTF, which has teams throughout Illinois, Indiana, and Eastern Wisconsin captured a total of 1,225 fugitives were apprehended on felony warrants with one in ten of them being wanted for a sex-based crime. Locally, over 400 individuals were arrested with 399 of them having prior arrests.

For this operation, the Marshals Service coordinated officers from 120 state agencies, 330 county agencies, 312 police departments, 6 foreign law enforcement agencies, and 24 other federal agencies. Locally, officers from the Chicago Police Department, Cook County Sheriff's Department, Illinois State Police, Illinois Attorney General's Office, DuPage County Sheriff's Department, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Illinois Department of Corrections, South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, and MCAT (Major Case Assistance Team) all participated in the roundup.

"The mission of the Chicago Police Department to serve and protect the community is demonstrated by the collaborative effort of all the local agencies involved in Operation FALCON II," said Deputy Superintendent Hiram Grau, Chicago Police Department, Bureau of Investigative Services. "By working together to take these violent offenders off the streets, with the assistance of the community, we are making the City of Chicago a safer place to live and work."

Operation FALCON II coincided with the beginning of the U.S. Department of Justice's "National Crime Victim's Rights Week". During his remarks announcing the results of Operation FALCON II, U.S. Attorney General Gonzalez praised the efforts of the participating agencies, noting that targeting violent criminals not only provided justice for the victims of those crimes, but also ensures safer communities.

"The Justice Department is pursuing our Nation's worst fugitives," said Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez. "Operation FALCON again was successful in apprehending violent offenders, sexual predators, drug dealers and gang members who have for too long escaped the grip of justice. With these criminals off the street, fewer Americans will live with the threat of violent crime in their communities."

An example of the types of arrests that took place during Operation FALCON II includes the apprehension of Antoine Sallay. Sallay was wanted on a parole violation from the Illinois Department of Corrections with an original charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child under the age of 13. Sallay was tracked by task force officers of the GLRFTF and after a brief pursuit was captured without incident. Sallay was one of 122 sexual predators captured locally by the GLRFTF, one of the highest totals of all the Districts participating in the sweep.

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## PHOTOS/VIDEO AVAILABLE

The Marshals' Office of Public Affairs has photos of actual arrests during the Operation available to press at [www.usmarshals.gov/falcon2](http://www.usmarshals.gov/falcon2), as well as fact sheets on arrests nationwide and in each of the participating districts. Dossiers on the "FALCON 15", describing 15 of the most significant cases closed during the Operation are available to media at the site. A ten-minute B-roll video package for broadcasters will be available for satellite distribution on April 27, at 2:30-2:45 p.m. EDT (11:30-11:45 a.m. PDT) at C-Band coordinate IA 6 T-17 Downlink Frequency 4040 V 93 degrees WL and at 6:30-6:45 pm EDT (3:30-3:45 p.m. PDT) and 10:00-10:15 pm EDT (7:00-7:15 pm PDT) at C-Band coordinate IA 6 T-16 Downlink Frequency 4020 H 93 degrees WL.

## PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

A complete list of all federal, state, and local agencies that participated in Operation FALCON II is available at the Marshals Service website, [www.usmarshals.gov/falcon2](http://www.usmarshals.gov/falcon2)

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